



*Tātai ki te rangi*

**BOARD  
NEWS**  
OCTOBER 2015

## HE WAKA EKE NOA - *all together, one canoe, no exception*

### Thank you to the Home and School!

As a decile 10 school we receive the lowest allocation of government funding, per pupil towards running our school. This allocation only pays for the basics, things like basic curriculum resources, teachers wages and administrative costs.

Our Home and School work tirelessly all year to fundraise for all the 'nice to have's' that make our children's learning experiences more exciting.

The biggest event in the Home and School calendar is the School Fair. It is a massive undertaking and an enormous amount of time and effort goes into making it not just a great fundraiser but a fantastic day for our children and wider community.

As a Board we would like to take this opportunity to thank the amazing Home and School and their incredible team of supporters for all their hard work.

Without you, so much of what we take for granted, wouldn't be possible. See you at the Fair!

### New Whanau/Family Orientation

We think that Khandallah School is a very special place but getting to know any new place can be challenging.

As part of our commitment to communication and manaakitanga (creating a welcoming atmosphere), we are starting up our 'New Whanau Orientation' welcome meetings.

The meetings will be held once a term for new and prospective whanau to give them a sense of how the Khandallah School community works - everything from the School Fair to lost property; from lunches to lucky book club.

The feedback we receive from the community is invaluable to us. We hear that communication is a priority for our families and we want to make sure that we start out with open and transparent lines of communication with each new family - starting as we intend to go on.

Being part of a community is about more than just being in the same building everyday. To achieve the best for all our children, we all need to work together, towards the same goals.

### Community Engagement Evening Kowhai

Communication was identified as a key priority for the Board in 2016. The move towards Future Focused Learning has been a necessary and exciting one. The staff have worked hard to make the process as seamless as possible and behind the scenes there has been a great deal of professional development, collaboration and an huge amount of planning.

As a Board we have been extremely impressed by the way that the teaching team have embraced this challenge. Their level of commitment is second to none and they have all worked far beyond the teaching day to deliver the best experience possible for our children.

To best support the teachers and management team, the Board has worked to communicate the strategic direction and rationale for the changes you have seen. So far this year there have been three, Board supported Community Engagement evenings and several Board Newsletters outlining the direction the school was taking and the thinking behind it.

Our next Community Engagement Evening will be based in Kowhai. It will be held on November 24th in Kowhai Block and will speak to working with our youngest children in a collaborative, Future Focused teaching and learning environment.

It will also be a time to hear about some of the improvements that are planned for the physical space over the coming months.

We hope to see as many Kowhai whanau as possible on the 24th.

### Board Structure

Last month, one of the members of our Board tendered their resignation; leaving us with five elected community reps (David Soper, Murray Waititi, Tanya Dunlop, Rachel Winter and Esther Prail), a staff rep (thanks Carly) and our principal, Trevor.

While looking into the election process, we found that recently many schools have chosen to restructure the way their Boards are made up. Most are opting to reduce the number of community reps on their Boards to five.

In seeking advice on electing a new Board member to fill the vacancy, we were advised that now may be a good time to take that step for our Board.

The Board is proposing that the current vacancy is not filled and that, when the next election cycle rolls around (in April 2016), we hold elections for three community reps, as planned for the next three year cycle - leaving two existing Board members to finish their three year term and reducing the Board to five members.

The Board currently works by having elections every eighteen months. Elected members have a three year term and this staggered eighteen month cycle ensures that there is continuity and that there is adequate support for new members.

If you would like to find out more about the process please contact the Board directly at [bot@khandallah.school.nz](mailto:bot@khandallah.school.nz).

If you are interested in joining the board in 2016, we are looking to fill skill gaps in finance, community engagement and self-review.

The motion to reduce the Board to five members will be put at the next meeting on November 12th - the meeting is open to the public.